Update, 05-22-06

Spring 2006 TraCS Pack Is Here!

Tracs 7.3 K/TraCS Pack 051906 is now available. This is a mandatory update for active TraCS agencies. Please send a confirmation note to mailto:badgertracs@dot.state.wi.us once the upgrade in your agency has been completed. We would like to see this upgrade completed no later than August 1, 2006 for all active agencies.

To download, follow the instructions in Appendix A of your Badger TraCS Technical Workbook to download TraCSInstall.exe. All files needed for installations and upgrades will be found in your C:\TraCSInstall folder after you run TraCSInstall.exe. The installation document located in C:\TraCSInstall provides instructions on upgrading machines. Please follow the instructions carefully in order to avoid any problems with the software. For example, end-shift files from the prior version must be handled properly to avoid data loss.

We recommend a high speed connection for downloading this very large file (~100 Mg). If you prefer a CD, send a note to mailto:badgertracs@dot.state.wi.us.

TraCS Pack Highlights

The new installation package contains many fixes and refinements to issues that were reported over the previous six months.

- The transmission process now handles high volumes of crash reports without degrading the images. You should still close TraCS Utilities when you are done transmitting for the day, but you will no longer have to break your transmissions up into small batches.
- You may now issue both the "A" and "B" citation on the same alcohol entry form. The form no longer locks after printing.
- Commonly entered property owners (example: ATT, WEPCO) now populate property owner name and address fields when an alias is entered in company name field. Local agencies may edit the Codes - PropertyOwnerAlias table in support.mdb to add their own commonly used aliases.

- Commonly used insurance aliases (example: AAA) now resolve to official insurance names. For example if you press ALT-O and then enter "SF," the name will automatically change to "State Farm." Local agencies may edit the Codes - InsuranceAliases table in support.mdb to add their own commonly used aliases.
- Minor typographical and alignment issues have been cleaned up on all forms and reports.
- Additional validation rules have been added to clean up data integrity issues noted over the last six months of production use.

Please see the release notes included in the installation package for more details.

ESB Pilot Agencies Sought

The Enterprise Service Bus (ESB) provides a way to transmit ELCI citation data via the Internet to the circuit court (CCAP), district attorney (DA Protect), DOT Citation Reporting application, and the DOT Court Ordered Web System (COWS). The ESB method of transmission will eliminate floppy disks for the circuit court. Currently, we are testing UTC citations (ELCI form) with the ESB. We hope to pilot the new transmission method this summer. Agencies must meet the following criteria in order to participate in the pilot:

- Active TraCS agency in production with TraCS for three or more months
- In a county that uses DA Protect
- Currently issue UTC's destined for circuit court

If your agency would like to become an ESB pilot agency, please send a letter of interest to mailto:badgertracs@dot.state.wi.us.
Once the pilot is complete, the new transmission method will be made available to all TraCS agencies.

TraCS Tips, Tricks, and Traps-- Diagramming

Here are some tips to make working with diagrams easier:
You can create re-usable templates (also called backgrounds) of common intersections to save you time. You can use TraCS or any other graphics tool to create these templates with TraCS. The templates must be saved as BMP files.
In order to use the template, the files must be stored in C:\Tracs\Backgrnd on **both** the workstation and the field unit. If the workstation from which the reports are transmitted does not have the same template files as the field unit, the diagrams sent to WisDOT will be incomplete.

For your convenience, there is a library of templates located at ftp://ftp.dot.state.wi.us/Backgrnd. Please feel free to download the templates for use in your agency. You may also upload templates to share with other agencies.

When using the Text Tool to label units and objects, please resize the text to fit into the space where you want to put it. Text laid over a unit will block out the unit if the text is not sized down to fit. This makes the diagram look like parts are missing.

If you are using a third party diagramming tool, make sure it is loaded on **both** the field unit and workstation. Otherwise, you will not be able to transmit the diagram successfully.

If you are using Easy Street Draw, make sure you are using the version designed for TraCS. See http://www.trancite.com/downloads/tracs.php for more information.

Easy Street Draw requires that the permission for C:\Windows\esdXde.ini be set to read\write for all users. The diagram will not save until these permissions are changed. The X stands for the version number of Easy Street Draw you are using.

Do you have a TraCS tip, trick or trap you'd like to share? Send it to mailto:badgertracs@dot.state.wi.us.

That wraps it up for this edition of the Badger TraCS Update. Thanks for reading!